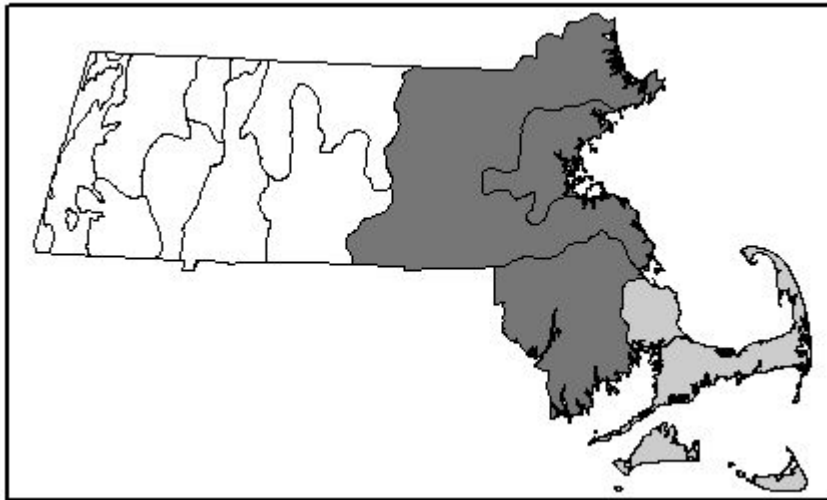


**Community Name:** ESTUARINE SUBTIDAL: FRESH / BRACKISH FLATS  
**Community CODE:** CE3A200000  
**SRANK:** S2



**Concept:** Permanently flooded freshwater to brackish areas subject to tidal fluctuations. Aquatic beds form where water is less than two meters at low tide.

**Environmental setting:** Permanently flooded upper reaches of estuaries, including upper reaches of tidal creeks. Such areas tend to be warmer and shallower than closer to the river mouth, as well as less saline. Shores lined by Freshwater or Brackish Tidal Marshes. Seldom closed by ice.

**Vegetation Description:** Sago pondweed (*Potamogeton pectinatus*), horned pondweed (*Zannichellia palustris*), tapegrass (*Vallisneria americana*), and naiads (*Najas guadalupensis* and *N. minor*) are characteristic vascular plants.

**Associations:**

**Habitat Values for Associated Fauna:** Fish such as Alewife (*Alosa pseudoharengus*), American shad (*Alosa sapidissima*), and Striped bass (*Morone saxatilis*) are characteristic. Invertebrates include Horseshoe crabs (*Limulus polyphemus*) and mud crabs (such as *Neopanope texana*). Gulls forage year round, and in winter waterfowl and eagles are common.

**Associated rare plants:**  
NONE KNOWN

**Associated rare animals:**  
LAMPETRA APPENDIX AMERICAN BROOK LAMPREY T

**Examples with Public Access:**

**Threats:**

**Management needs:**

Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

**Synonyms**

**USNVC/TNC:** Potamogeton pectinatus - Zannichellia palustris Permanently Flooded - Tidal Herbaceous Alliance  
-- Potamogeton pectinatus - Zannichellia palustris Permanently Flooded - Tidal Herbaceous  
Vegetation [CEGL006027].

**MA (old name):** Southern New England & Gulf of Maine Fresh /Brackish Subtidal Estuarine Communities.

**ME:** Estuarine community: subtidal estuary community.

**NH:** Possible, not described.

**NY:** Includes Estuarine intertidal, Brackish subtidal aquatic bed; Freshwater subtidal aquatic bed.

**CT:** Includes Vallisneria americana Hydromorphic Vegetation.

**RI:** Includes Brackish subtidal Aquatic Bed; Fresh subtidal aquatic bed.

**Other:**

**Author:** P. Swain

**Date:** 6/13/99